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General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 17
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 26 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations during the period from 15 to 21 February 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 17, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-25298 (E) 280208 280208

Annex to the identical letters dated 26 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Subject: Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 15 to 21 February 2008, inclusive

Air violations

On 15 February 2008 between 1310 and 1400 hours, an enemy Israeli military aircraft flew at high altitude over the areas of Tibnin, Bint Jubayl, al-Naqurah, al-Nabatiyah and Jazzin.

On 16 February 2008 between 1150 and 1205 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew at high altitude over the area of al-Naqurah.

Between 2205 and 2320 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew at high altitude over the areas of al-Naqurah and Bint Jubayl.

Between 2205 and 2220 hours, over the sea off Ra's al-Naqurah, an enemy Israeli helicopter flew over Lebanese territorial waters.

On 17 February 2008 between 0500 and 1200 hours an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew at intervals over the areas of al-Naqurah, Bint Jubayl and al-Nabatiyah.

Between 1406 and 1700 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea of Tyre heading north as far as Beirut, and circled over Beirut and the southern areas, then departed over the sea off al-Naqurah.

Between 1700 and 1725 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew over the area of al-Naqurah.

On 20 February 2008 between 1800 and 1815 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew over the area of al-Naqurah.

Between 2010 and 2050 hours an enemy Israeli military aircraft flew at intervals over the area of al-Naqurah.

On 21 February 2008 between 1005 and 1115 hours, two Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the Shab'a farmlands, circled over all areas of Lebanon and then departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

Between 1144 and 1230 hours, four enemy Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Dayr Mimas, circled over all areas of Lebanon and then departed over 'Alma al-Sha'b.

Between 1835 and 2125 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre and circled over the South, then departed over the sea off al-Naqurah.

Sea violations

None.

Acts of aggression in the field

On 15 February 2008 between 1330 and 1600 hours at the crossing point by the town of Kafr Killa, three Israeli farmers pumped runoff water from the Israeli side towards a ditch alongside the technical fence in the direction of Lebanese territory, where two tankers belonging to the Spanish unit were used to transport the water elsewhere.

On 17 February 2008 between 1000 and 1530 hours at the crossing point by the town of Kafr Killa, a number of Israeli farmers pumped runoff water from the Israeli side towards a ditch alongside the technical fence in the direction of Lebanese territory. At 1250 hours, a tanker contracted to the Spanish unit was used to transport the water elsewhere.

Between 1330 and 1340 hours near the Mays al-Jabal Gate, the Israeli enemy pumped water from inside the occupied Palestinian territories in the direction of Lebanese territory.

On 18 February 2008 at 0745 hours at the crossing point by the town of Kafr Killa, the Israeli enemy pumped water from inside the occupied Palestinian territories into a ditch alongside the technical fence inside Lebanese territory, where it began to overflow onto the 'Udaysah — Kafr Killa public highway. Lebanese Army patrols and the Spanish unit operating within UNIFIL attended, siphoned off the water and transported it elsewhere by means of tankers.

On 21 February 2008 between 0745 and 1630 hours at the crossing point by the town of Kafr Killa, the Israeli enemy pumped water from inside the occupied Palestinian territories into a ditch alongside the technical fence inside Lebanese territory, where the water began to overflow onto the 'Udaysah — Kafr Killa public highway and from there into the orchards of the town of Kafr Killa. At 1030 hours, a UNIFIL tanker equipped with a siphon came and siphoned off the water.

Israeli activities

On 15 February 2008 from 2100 hours inside the occupied Palestinian territories in the orchards which extend from the settlement at Metulla to that at Misgav Am, close to the towns of 'Udaysah and Kafr Killa, stationary motorized enemy patrols (as ambushes) were observed at a distance of approximately 500 metres from one another, with an average of 3 to 4 vehicles per patrol moving between them.

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Agenda items 17 and 18

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 27 February 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

It is with grave concern that I write to inform you that Mr. Roni Yihye, a 47-year-old father of four, was murdered today after a Qassam rocket, fired by Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip, landed in a parking lot near Sapir College in southern Israel. No less than 22 Qassam rockets were fired during the day, striking in and around the town of Sderot. The latest barrage included 11 rockets, which were launched successively in a span of less than five minutes. The Hamas terrorist organization claimed responsibility.

Today's Qassam rocket fire came just days after Palestinian terrorists injured 10-year-old Yossi Haimov, this past Monday, on 25 February, in Sderot. Yossi and his 8-year-old sister, Maria, were playing outside a friend's house when a Qassam rocket slammed into the backyard.

The fact that my delegation is forced to write and inform you of these Palestinian terrorist attacks with alarming regularity should not be mistaken for routine procedure. There is nothing mundane about Palestinian terrorism; it is a deadly force with devastating real-world consequences. Palestinian terrorism can never be justified or explained, especially amidst calls for equivalence and parity, as we recently heard. The security threats that Israel faces arise from a situation where armed terrorists like Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist organizations intentionally target Israeli civilians. Hence, the State of Israel is obligated and will continue to defend its citizens, in accordance with its inherent right, like any other nation, under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. Hamas's firing of rockets at Israeli civilians from within populated Palestinian areas is a war crime that harms both Israelis and Palestinians. While Israel takes the necessary measures to protect all civilian populations and ensure their humanitarian needs, Hamas takes the necessary measures to cause the utmost death and destruction. Moreover, Palestinian

08-25439 (E) 280208

terrorists, like Hamas, are backed with the full support of some States, in violation of international law.

The unremitting and indiscriminate Qassam rocket fire has levied an insufferable toll on the civilian population of southern Israel, triggering a severe humanitarian situation there. The safety, security and stability of all citizens in our region will remain in peril so long as Palestinian terrorism continues unabated. Hence, the Palestinian leadership must stop the violence, dismantle the terrorist infrastructure, end the cycle of impunity and bring the terrorists to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17 and 18, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Daniel **Carmon**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/62/711–S/2008/133

General Assembly
Security Council

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28 February 2008

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General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 108
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 27 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to bring to your attention a recent judgement by a Belgian court against several members of the terrorist organization, the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C). Among the accused are Dursun Karataş, the leader of DHKP-C, and the notorious terrorist Fehriye Erdal, one of the perpetrators of the assassination carried out in Istanbul in 1996 against Özdemir Sabancı, a prominent Turkish businessman, and his two assistants. I wish to emphasize that DHKP-C is on the list of terrorist organizations of the European Union and has perpetrated numerous violent terrorist acts in Turkey and several in several other European countries, targeting not only the constitutional order of Turkey, but also the existence and activities of the international organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

On 7 February 2008 the Antwerp Court of Appeals, overruling the previous judgements of other Belgian courts, namely Brugges Penal Court and the Gand Court of Appeals, acquitted the DHKP-C members, including the above-mentioned two terrorists, for the charges of "being member of a terrorist organization or criminal gang" in the light of the evidence provided by the Federal Prosecutor of Belgium. The Antwerp Court of Appeals convicted three of the accused, including Fehriye Erdal, only for the crimes of forgery and illegal possession of firearms, but then deferred their sentences.

The verdict of the Antwerp Court of Appeal is being examined by the Turkish authorities in detail and the possibility of appeal is being explored. We also noted that the Federal Prosecutor of Belgium appealed the said decision.

However, we are still concerned with the following conclusions of the Court upon which the verdict was based:

> "... The Court does not need to examine if DHKP-C abroad — e.g., in Turkey, Germany, Holland or Italy — can or should be considered as an association of criminals, respectively a criminal organization or a terrorist association ..."

08-25499 (E) 030308

"... The Court is in no way bound by a decision of a foreign penal court, nor by a foreign administrative decision, nor by a foreign decision by an executive power ..."

"... Nor can the incorporation by the European Union of DHKP-C in the list of terrorist groups be binding for the judgement by the Court ..."

"... At the most, the incorporation in the list of terrorist associations can have the value of an indication that, together with other elements, could be taken into consideration ..."

"... For what concerns the 'foreign' elements: one can only take them into account for as far as there is a demonstrable link with the defendants and their activities in Belgium ..."

Though we have full respect for the independence of the judiciary, we firmly believe that these conclusions, without any doubt, constitute a serious contradiction to the fundamental principles of the global fight against terrorism. Moreover, the judgement is not in line with the binding resolutions of the Security Council, such as resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1566 (2004), which stipulate punishment of the perpetrators of terrorist acts by penalties consistent with their grave nature. Furthermore, it should also be noted that decisions as such could be misinterpreted as impunity and would consequently embolden the terrorist organizations.

I would like to conclude by quoting from your statement to the General Assembly on 16 February 2007 on the follow-up to the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: "The fight against terrorism is our common mission". As you would agree with me, the accomplishment of this important mission requires firm and consistent stance by each and every member of the international community, as well as full and consistent implementation of the binding obligations incumbent upon member States.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/62/712–S/2008/138

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Security Council

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3 March 2008

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General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 87
Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 27 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey herewith the letter addressed to you by Mr. Manouchehr Mottaki, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, concerning Iran's peaceful nuclear programme and the latest report of the International Atomic Energy Agency in this regard (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 87, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-25610 (E) 030308

Annex to the identical letters dated 27 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

At this important juncture, whereas the recent report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has declared that all outstanding issues regarding the peaceful nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been resolved, and has confirmed for the eleventh time that there has been no diversion in the Iranian peaceful nuclear activities, I would like to draw your attention to the following:

1. The pretexts on the basis of which the Iranian nuclear issue was put on the agenda of IAEA and then became the basis for unwarranted and unlawful action of the United Nations Security Council were the so-called ambiguities and allegations on the Iranian nuclear programme introduced by a few, certain countries which, by exaggerating those ambiguities, attempted to put into question the peaceful nature of the nuclear programme of the Islamic Republic of Iran and mark it as concealment and non-transparent or unlawful behaviour.

2. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to remove any ambiguities about its peaceful nuclear activities and the resolution of the remaining issues, reached an understanding on 21 August 2007 on a workplan with IAEA. On the basis of the workplan, an exhaustive list of six issues, including "Research on plutonium", "P1 and P2 Centrifuges", "Source of contamination", "Uranium metal document", "Polonium 210" and "Gchine mine", were presented by the Agency to Iran. Despite the initial agreement, based on which we were supposed to address the past remaining issues, the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the basis of its goodwill and in line with further cooperation with the Agency, considered also the present issues. Therefore, negotiations on two important legal documents, i.e., "Safeguards approach document" and "Facility attachment" for the Fuel Enrichment Plant in Natanz, started and then were concluded, and finally entered into force on 30 September 2007. Accordingly, the implementation of those documents has provided necessary assurances for the verification of enrichment activities in Iran for the present time and in future. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in implementation of the workplan, has made utmost transparency and has fully cooperated with the Agency and even concluded the workplan much sooner than the scheduled timeline. It is worth mentioning that the implementation of the workplan required 18 months but the Islamic Republic of Iran implemented it within six months.

3. The report of the Agency dated 22 February 2008 has clearly and evidently declared that all six "remaining issues" have been resolved and that the Islamic Republic of Iran has answered all the questions presented by IAEA concerning outstanding issues according to the workplan and those answers are "consistent with the Agency's findings", and that IAEA "considers those questions no longer as outstanding".

4. In the said report, the Agency has also declared that the current nuclear activities in Iran are under its monitoring and the Agency has been able to continue to verify the non-diversion of declared nuclear materials and activities in Iran.

5. Thus, all the so-called justifications and flawed foundations for the Security Council's action on this issue have vanished, and it shows that the resolutions previously adopted by the Security Council lack any legal and technical justifications and originated solely from political and malicious objectives of certain countries. Naturally, the continuation of this trend would undermine the credibility of the Security Council and would weaken the integrity and position of IAEA, which should be the sole competent authority for nuclear activities of the member States, and it would represent another wrong step.

6. The Agency's report is a clear indication of the lawful, transparent and responsible behaviour of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its nuclear activities and also of the fulfilment of its obligations and commitments in that regard.

7. The great nation of Iran, along with the fulfilment of its obligations, does not demand anything other than the exercising of its inalienable rights under the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons for the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and in that regard the abuse of international bodies by certain countries would not manage to compel our nation to abandon its inalienable rights.

8. Given the above-mentioned facts, the legitimate expectation of the international community is that those States which misled international forums with their baseless allegations and accusations through their politically motivated actions and propaganda against the peaceful nuclear programme of Iran should take action to remedy their mistake.

(*Signed*) Manouchehr **Mottaki**
Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 20
The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Letter dated 3 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith an explanatory memorandum for the draft resolution introduced under agenda item 20, entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan" and a map reflecting the present situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan (see annex).

In view of the forthcoming consideration of the item at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly, I should be grateful if the explanatory memorandum and the map were urgently distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under item 20, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-26388 (E) 070308

Annex to the letter dated 3 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum for the draft resolution entitled "Situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan" (A/62/L.42)

In implementation of its territorial claims Armenia occupied the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and seven adjacent districts. The occupation was accompanied by a policy of ethnic cleansing and more than 1 million Azerbaijanis became refugees and internally displaced people.

Responding to the occupation of the Azerbaijani territories the Security Council in 1993 adopted four resolutions — 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993) — demanding the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and the creation of necessary conditions for the return of displaced persons to their homes in security and dignity. Those provisions of the resolutions remain unimplemented.

The negotiations under the OSCE Minsk Group started in 1992. At the OSCE Lisbon Summit in 1996 the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group and the OSCE Chairman-in-Office recommended and made statements in support of the following principles as the basis for the settlement of the conflict: the territorial integrity of Armenia and Azerbaijan; the highest degree of self-rule for Nagorno-Karabakh within Azerbaijan; guaranteed security for Nagorno-Karabakh and its whole population. But Armenia was the only one out of 54 OSCE participating States which did not accept these principles.

While negotiations are going on, Armenia tries to consolidate the occupation through illegal activities in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Armenia has launched an outrageous policy of exploiting natural resources in the occupied Azerbaijani territories, in particular the gold mines in Kalbajar district, aiming to engage overseas companies in the illegal business.

In addition, Armenia falsifies history and misappropriates the cultural and architectural heritage of all occupied territories. Religious and historical monuments, ancient manuscripts and other cultural properties have been destroyed, refashioned, plundered and removed.

Furthermore, Armenia has launched an outrageous policy of massive illegal settlement of Armenian population in the occupied territories, which is another blatant violation of international law.

In an expression of serious concern about the massive settlement in the occupied territories, the item entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan" was included in the General Assembly's agenda at the fifty-ninth session. As a result of the consideration of the item at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 23 November 2004, the first-ever OSCE fact-finding mission was dispatched to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan from 31 January to 5 February 2005.

The fact-finding mission confirmed the facts of the Armenian settlement of the occupied territories. The Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group requested that any

further settlement of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan be discouraged and urged that changes be avoided in the demographic structure of the region, which would make difficult any further efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement of the conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan (see A/59/747-S/2005/187). The fact-finding mission became feasible owing to the General Assembly's just and right approach to the grave concern articulated by Azerbaijan.

However, another dangerous development occurred in the occupied territories. Starting from June 2006 we registered massive fires in the eastern part of the occupied territories. What deeply concerned us was the continuation of the fires and the fact that they had been taking place in those territories where the Azerbaijani population would eventually return.

With the view to taking comprehensive measures to suppress the fires, eliminating the impact of this environmental disaster and rehabilitating the fire-affected territories of Azerbaijan, our delegation, acting in the spirit of compromise, during intensive consultations, demonstrated maximum flexibility to accommodate every concern and, as a result, on 7 September 2006 the General Assembly adopted resolution 60/285 without a vote.

Pursuant to that resolution, an environmental assessment mission led by OSCE to the fire-affected territories in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region was conducted from 2 to 13 October 2006. In its report, the mission proposed short-, medium- and long-term initiatives (see A/61/696). However, those proposals, which, beside their ultimate aims, supposed the establishment of confidence, have never been implemented in the occupied territories.

Azerbaijan has always conducted the negotiations in good faith, whereas Armenia, contrary to the aims of negotiations, through continued military occupation, demonstrates its unchanged "fait accompli" policy and this position of the Armenian officials should ring another alarm bell about the real intentions of the Government of Armenia.

The talks are built on the clear basis of the full restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and sovereignty. In the final stage of the settlement, we envisage a peaceful and prosperous region, where the Azerbaijani and Armenian communities of Nagorno-Karabakh would live in friendship and security within the Republic of Azerbaijan. To arrive at this point, we need to eliminate the consequences of the conflict, namely, the occupying forces shall leave all occupied territories, internally displaced people shall return to their places of origin, and transport and communication links shall be restored.

In spite of negotiations that have continued for more than a decade, the conflict is not settled and this situation causes on our part profound anxiety, frustration and disappointment. The consideration of the item at the plenary meeting of the General Assembly absolutely does not mean that we intend to change the format of the negotiations on the settlement of the conflict. The main reason for the discussion of the item and for taking action on the draft resolution is to reconfirm the basic principles of the settlement of the conflict, to express support for the mediators and to encourage them to intensify efforts aimed at the peaceful settlement of the conflict in accordance with the norms and principles of international law, in particular those related to sovereignty and territorial integrity,

and to give an additional impulse to the peace process in order to prevent a possible impasse and stagnation in the negotiations. The international community should give a clear message that the acquisition of any territory of a sovereign State by force and the situation resulting from it will never be recognized as legal.

Azerbaijan values the position of the international community, which has unequivocally supported the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan strongly believes that, at this crucial juncture in the United Nations reform process, the General Assembly, as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, will again prove its relevance and validity to deal with any question relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, articulate its position and address the issue of concern. The forthcoming consideration of the item is not only about voting for the draft resolution, it is not even about expressing political support for the concern of Azerbaijan, it is about boosting the principles and norms of international law, it is about supporting all Member States whose sovereignty and territorial integrity might be in danger at any time in this crucial and difficult period of international relations.

RESULTS OF ARMENIAN AGGRESSION

Occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Nagorny-Karabakh region

Territory	- 4 388 sq. km
Population (1989)	- 189 085
Armenians	- 145 450 (76,9%)
Azerbaijanis	- 40 488 (21,5%)
Russians	- 1922 (1%)
Others	- 1825 (0,6%)

Shaumo district

Territory	- 289 sq. km
Population (1989)	- 20 579
Azerbaijanis	- 19 036 (92,5%)
Armenians	- 1 377 (6,7%)
Occupied	- May 8, 1992

Districts outside Nagorny-Karabakh region

	Occupation	Expulsion
Lachin	- May 18, 1992	- 71 000
Kelbajar	- April 2, 1993	- 74 000
Aghdam	- July 23, 1993	- 165 000
Fizuli	- August 23, 1993	- 146 000
Jebrayil	- August 26, 1993	- 66 000
Gubadly	- August 31, 1993	- 37 900
Zangilan	- October 28, 1993	- 39 500

Victims of aggression

Killed - 20 000 Disabled - 50 000 Missing - 4 866

Destructions and damage

Settlements	- 890
Houses	- 150 000
Public Buildings	- 7 000
Schools	- 693
Kindergartens	- 855
Health Care Facilities	- 695
Libraries	- 927
Temples	- 44
Mosques	- 9
Historical Places	- 9
Historical Monuments and Museums	- 464
Museum Exhibits	- 40 000
Industrial and Agricultural Enterprises	- 6 000
Motor Ways	- 800 km
Bridges	- 160
Water Pipelines	- 2 300 km
Gas Pipelines	- 2 000 km
Electricity Lines	-15 000 km
Forests	- 280 000 ha
Sowing Area	- 1 000 000 ha
Irrigation Systems	- 1 200 km

The total damage is estimated up to 60 billion US $

Refugees and IDP

Refugees from Armenia	- 250 000
Internally displaced persons from the occupied territories	- 660 000
Internally displaced persons from regions along the border with Armenia and line of occupation	- 100 000
Total	-1 010 000

Armenian Armed Forces in the occupied territories

Tanks - 316 Artillery - 322
ACV - 324 Personnel - 40 000

Settlers illegally transferred to occupied territories

Nagorny-Karabakh	- 8 500
Lachin	- 13 000
Kelbajar	- 700
Zangilan	- 520
Jebrayil	- 280
Total	- 23 000

- Temporary Refugee/IDP settlements
- IDP tent camps
- Occupied territories
- – – – Line of occupation
- ..... Admin. line of the former NKAO of Az.SSR

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Agenda items 49 and 70 (b)

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Culture of peace

Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Letter dated 29 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose, in my capacity as Chair of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Group at New York, a statement issued by the OIC Group expressing concern about the increasing manifestations of Islamophobia (see annex). The repeated instances of Islamophobia encourage incitement to hatred against Islam and Muslims around the world and pose a threat to peace and security within and among States. These acts call for redoubling the efforts of the international community to promote understanding and respect for religions, cultures and civilizations.

It is requested that the annexed statement of OIC kindly be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 49 and 70 (b), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Munir **Akram**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

08-26147 (E) 100308

Annex to the letter dated 29 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Organization of the Islamic Conference statement on Islamophobia

29 February 2008

The increasingly negative political and media discourse in the Western world targeting Muslims and Islam is a matter of grave concern for the Islamic Ummah. Over the years, the growing intolerance and discrimination against Muslims, and insults against Islam have become pervasive and are often condoned in certain Western countries and communities.

Among the instances of Islamophobia are the publication of blasphemous caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon Him) by newspapers in Europe, multiple campaigns for anti-Islamic regulations in several European countries including the imposition of restrictions on the construction of places of worship, and the impending screening of a documentary by a Dutch lawmaker, which insults the Holy Quran. They constitute incitements to negative sentiments and hatred against Muslims. Apathy, and inaction on the part of the Governments concerned in preventing such provocations and discrimination against Muslims and Islam, cannot be justified by the plea of freedom of expression. Unfortunately, such insults and intolerance against Islam are being provided intellectual justification by Western scholars and political lobbies who espouse anti-Islamic agendas, hence lending support to ideological violence against Muslims. Slogans such as "Islamo-fascism", "Islamic terrorism" and "radical Islam" are manifestations of and justifications for provocations and systematic insults against Islam. This phenomenon reflects the Islamophobia which afflicts segments of Western society.

The OIC Group believes that the right to freedom of expression carries with it special duties and responsibilities, and does not provide a licence to insult and hurt the sentiments and beliefs of others. It is the obligation of all States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in accordance with article 20 thereof, to enact the necessary legislation to prohibit any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. The OIC Group observes that the European Court of Human Rights has previously ruled in favour of interference by the State to prohibit media material in cases involving other religions to guard against igniting religious sensitivities, and expects equal treatment in cases involving Islam and Muslims' rights.

The OIC Group in New York strongly deplores all acts of ideological and physical violence and assaults, and incitements thereto, against persons on the basis of their religion or belief, and those acts directed against the holy symbols, sites or places of worship of all religions. The Group is particularly and deeply alarmed by the intensification of the campaign of defamation against Islam, as it impairs Muslims' enjoyment of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and impedes their ability to observe, practise and manifest their religion freely and without fear of coercion, violence or reprisal.

Such acts against Muslims and Islam are inconsistent with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations which seeks to promote peaceful coexistence among nations. They are in violation of numerous United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolutions 62/154 on combating defamation of religions and 55/23 on the Year of Dialogue among Civilizations, as well as Security Council resolution 1624 (2005), which call upon all Member States, inter alia, to continue international efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations, in an effort to prevent the indiscriminate targeting of different religions and cultures. Such acts also erode the positive momentum generated by the launch of the Alliance of Civilizations and the General Assembly's High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, which, inter alia, aim to overcome misunderstandings between Islam and the West.

In the above context, the OIC Group in New York wishes to recall the joint statement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union in Doha on 7 February 2006, in which it was recognized that "in all societies there is a need to show sensitivity and responsibility in treating issues of special significance for the adherents of any particular faith, even by those who do not share the belief in question".

In particular, the OIC Group believes that lack of action to prevent the reprinting of blasphemous caricatures, and indifference in airing the inflammatory documentary against the Holy Quran, will be perceived as manifestations of insincerity towards the principles and objectives of various efforts within the United Nations system aiming at promoting understanding and respect of and among cultures and civilizations.

The OIC Group urges the Secretary-General to call upon the Governments of the States that condone the publication of these blasphemous caricatures and media material as well as the campaigns for anti-Islamic regulations to take all possible legal and administrative measures to prevent the repetition or continuation of these deliberate offensive acts, which impinge greatly on the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion of the followers of Islam. The OIC Group requests the Secretary-General to publicly express his unequivocal opposition to all acts of Islamophobia, and to declare that no Government should be complicit in undermining the ongoing efforts to promote harmony and friendly relations among the various cultures, religions and civilizations.

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The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Letter dated 29 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, adopted on Friday, 29 February 2008 (see annex).

The Non-Aligned Movement strongly condemns the continuing military assaults by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, which, since the beginning of the month of February, have resulted in the killing of 76 Palestinians, including 13 children. The Non-Aligned Movement reiterates once again that the aggressive and violent escalation by Israel against the Palestinian people constitutes a grave breach of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, fuels the cycle of violence and threatens international peace and security as well as the fragile peace process between the two sides.

Furthermore, I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17 and 18, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rodrigo **Malmierca Díaz**
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations
Chair of the Coordinating Bureau
of the Non-Aligned Movement

08-26015 (E) 060308

Annex to the letter dated 29 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

The members of the Non-Aligned Movement express their grave concern over the Israeli aggressive escalation against the Palestinian people and the serious deterioration of the situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip.

The members of the Non-Aligned Movement strongly condemn the continuing military assaults by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, which, since the beginning of the month of February, have resulted in the killing of 76 Palestinians, including 13 children. Such violent and illegal actions have deepened the suffering of innocent and defenceless Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, who are already greatly suffering from continued imposition of the crippling Israeli siege and the ensuing humanitarian crisis. Moreover, this violent military escalation by Israel constitutes a grave breach of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, fuels the cycle of violence and threatens international peace and security as well as the fragile peace process between the two sides.

The Non-Aligned Movement calls upon the international community, especially the Security Council, to uphold international law and its responsibilities and to act urgently to address this growing crisis. Israel, the occupying Power, is called upon to immediately cease its violations and to abide by all of its obligations under international law and relevant United Nations resolutions as the occupying Power in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

The Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms its support for and solidarity with the Palestinian people during this critical period. Moreover, it reaffirms its long-standing principled positions calling, inter alia, for an end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and other Arab lands occupied since 1967, the realization of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital. The Non-Aligned Movement expresses the hope that the current dangerous deterioration of the situation will be halted and that positive developments on the ground will be generated to help advance the peace process towards the achievement of these goals and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

New York, 29 February 2008

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Agenda item 17
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 4 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations from 22 to 29 February 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 17, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-26027 (E) 060308 060308

Annex to the identical letters dated 4 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Subject: Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 22 to 29 February 2008

Air violations

On 22 February 2008, between 1838 hours and 2130 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Rumaysh and circled over Rumaysh, al-Na`imah and Damur. It departed over the sea off al-Naqurah.

On 23 February 2008, between 1015 hours and 1115 hours, enemy Israeli military aircraft overflew the Bint Jubayl and Tibnin regions at high altitude.

Between 1450 hours and 1800 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Jazzin and al-Nabatiyah regions.

Between 2035 hours and 2145 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over `Aytarun in a northerly direction as far as al-Nabatiyah, and circled over the southern regions. It departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

On 24 February 2008, between 1220 hours and 1300 hours, enemy Israeli military aircraft overflew the al-Naqurah region at high altitude.

Between 2029 hours and 2110 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre and circled over Tyre and Beirut. It departed over the sea off al-Naqurah.

On 25 February 2008, between 1315 hours and 1430 hours, enemy Israeli military aircraft overflew the South region at high altitude.

On 26 February 2008, between 1655 hours and 2130 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft intermittently overflew the Tibnin and occupied Shab`a farmlands regions.

Between 1920 hours and 2000 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Rumaysh in a northerly direction and circled over the southern regions. It departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

On 27 February 2008, between 0805 hours and 1225 hours, two Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Kafr Kila and circled between Shikka and the South over both land and sea. They departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

Between 1849 hours and 2215 hours, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off al-Naqurah and circled over the sea between Sidon and al-Naqurah and over regions of the South. It departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

On 28 February 2008, between 0845 hours and 0930 hours, four Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, two over `Alma al-Sha`b and two over Yarun. All of them circled between Juniyah and the South over both sea and land. They departed over al-Naqurah.

Between 0905 hours and 0955 hours, two Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the occupied Shab`a farmlands in a northerly direction as far as Beirut and circled over regions of the western Bekaa and the South. They departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

Between 1005 hours and 1055 hours, two Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over Rumaysh in a northerly direction as far as Beirut and circled over regions of the western Bekaa and the South. They departed over the sea off al-Naqurah.

Between 1200 hours and 1420 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off al-Naqurah in an easterly direction as far as west of Tyre and then turned north as far as a point off Beirut. It departed over the sea off al-Naqurah.

On 29 February 2008, between 0750 hours and 1130 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft intermittently overflew the al-Naqurah and Jazzin regions.

Between 1630 hours and 1800 hours, an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre in a northerly direction as far as Sidon and circled over Sidon and Tyre. It departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

Between 1824 hours and 2120 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace over the sea off Tyre and circled over regions of the South. It departed over Rumaysh.

Sea violations

None reported.

Acts of aggression in the field

On 22 February 2008, between 0710 hours and 1700 hours, opposite the Kafr Kila crossing, the Israeli enemy pumped water into the ditch running along the technical fence inside Lebanese territory.

On 25 February 2008, at 2000 hours, the Israeli enemy shone a searchlight from the western gate of the Zar`it barracks in the direction of the Marwahin triangle and Jabal Balat for 14 seconds.

On 28 February 2008, between 1530 hours and 2130 hours, the Israeli enemy pumped water from inside occupied Palestinian territory opposite the village of Mays al-Jabal into Lebanese territory along the barbed wire strip.

On 29 February 2008, at 2045 hours and 2320 hours, the Israeli enemy shone a searchlight from its position east of Hanita (opposite the village of `Alma al-Sha`b) in the direction of the 62nd Battalion position at Lahlah hill outside `Alma al-Sha`b.

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Identical letters dated 4 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical table of Israeli violations during the month of February 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 17, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-26021 (E) 060308 060308

Annex to the identical letters dated 4 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statistical table showing Israeli violations during February 2008

Air violations					*Land violations*					
Military jet	*Reconnaissance*	*Helicopter*	*Total*	*Sea violations*	*Military acts of aggression*	*Field violations*	*Breaches*	*Total*	*Overall total*	*Previous month's violations*
				Crossing of territorial waters, and firing of automatic-weapons rounds, flares and flare shells over territorial waters	Air raids, artillery shelling, shelling of military positions and important posts, attacks on and killing of civilians	Gunfire, launching of flare bombs, dropping of artillery shells, infiltration and crossing of international borders	Threats and display of weapons, bulldozing of soil, placing of barbed wire and setting up of installations inside Lebanese territory			
22	29	4	55	—	1	4	9	14	69	73